

REMARKS

Claims 30-31, 34-37, 39, and 53-54 were rejected. Claims 30 and 34-36 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 30-31, 34-36, and 53-54 are now pending. The above amendments and the following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome each rejection raised by the Examiner and to place the application in condition for allowance.

Drawings

The Examiner cited three objections to the drawings. Applicants respond to the objections as follows.

1. The Examiner objected that the drawings do not include the “pieces 136” described in paragraph [0105] of the Specification. Applicant’s Response to Restriction Requirement dated 8/28/08, however, amends paragraph [0105] to change “136” to “1136.” Figures 19F-19H includes “pieces 1136,” and therefore Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

2. The Examiner objected that the drawings include the following reference characters not mentioned in the Specification: parts 1028, 1036, and 1136 from Figures 19A-H.

a. Regarding part 1028, as indicated above, Applicants have amended the parts list of the Specification to clarify that reference number 1028 refers to the head part.

b. Regarding part 1036, Applicant’s Response to Restriction Requirement dated 8/28/08 amended paragraph [0104] to change reference number “36” to “1036,” and therefore the Specification addresses part 1036.

c. Regarding part 1136, as discussed above, Applicants previously amended paragraph [0105] to include reference number “1136.”

For these reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the objections.

3. The Examiner objected that the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

a. Regarding the pin arrangement of claim 35, paragraph [0088] of the Specification provides that reference number 156 of Figure 6B shows the pin arrangement.

b. Regarding the dividing wall of claim 36, paragraph [0090] of the Specification describes “a partial dividing wall or undercut or an opening edge 60.” Dividing wall 60 is shown in Figure 3A.

c. Regarding the spiral pressure springs of claim 35, they are shown by reference number 1142 in Figures 19F-H and described in paragraph [0105].

For these reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the objections.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 34 for claiming a cylinder that is rectangular in cross section. Applicants have amended claim 34 to replace “cylinder” with “channel,” and therefore Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 30, 31, 53, and 54 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramsauer (U.S. Pat. No. 6,286,185) in view of Parkin (U.S. Pat. No. 3,426,817). Applicants have amended independent claim 30 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 37 and 39. In discussing dependent claim 37, the Examiner concedes that Ramsauer and Parkin do not disclose a holding element with an opening for a pressure spring, and cites Young for this limitation in a separate rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of claim 30 and its dependent claims, and focus the remainder of this discussion on the rejection of claims 37 and 39.

The Examiner rejected claims 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, and 42 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramsauer in view of Parkin as applied to claims 30 and 31 and further in view of Young (U.S. Pat. No. 1,950,205). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Ramsauer discloses a hinge for metal cupboard doors, Parkin discloses a sheet metal nut device, and Young discloses a license plate holder.

The cited references, however, do not disclose a hinge

wherein the holding elements are formed by two flat metal pieces lying next to one another, each metal piece having a rectangular opening or breakthrough, these two openings or breakthroughs together forming a rectangular space which receives a spiral pressure spring by at least a portion of its diameter.

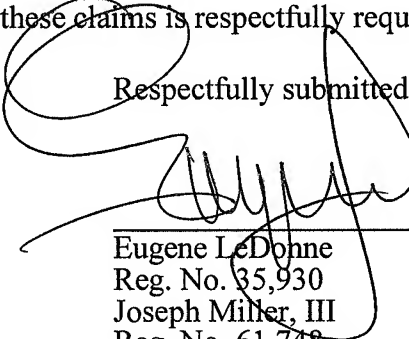
By these metal pieces, the claimed inventions’ spiral pressure spring is taken up in its longitudinal extension. The Examiner contends that Young discloses this limitation. But Young’s spiral spring 41 is taken up radially at its two ends in lug 40. The lugs of Young move

perpendicularly to the cylinder (pin 35), while the flat metal pieces according to the claimed invention move in the axial direction of the "cylinder" wherein they are slidingly supported. Young's hub 16 and lugs 40 are not flat metal pieces lying next to one another, each having a rectangular opening or breakthrough. Further, Young's hub 16 and lugs 40 do not together form a rectangular space receiving a spiral pressure spring by at least a portion of its diameter.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the invention of independent claim 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of independent claim 30 and its dependent claims.

An early action on the merits of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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